

REMARKS

Applicants hereby offer preliminary amendments to the present application to place the application in better form for allowance.

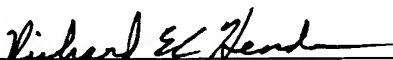
Applicants have canceled Claims 1-16 in favor of replacement Claims 17-46 to correct certain informalities (including avoidance of multiple dependencies) and to clarify the intended meaning of the claims without materially altering their scope. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are fully supported in the specification.

Applicants have amended the specification to change the title to correspond to the English version of the title appearing on the International Application, to capitalize all letters in the title, and to insert a statement of priority. Applicants have also corrected an inadvertent typographical error in the page number for one of the articles mentioned in the specification at page 2. Applicants submit that these amendments serve only to clarify their application and do not alter the scope of their disclosure.

Applicants have amended the Abstract to change the title for the reasons discussed above and to change the heading and body to a more customary form. A copy of the new Abstract is separately attached.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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